

relatively small territories, would perform only a part of the functions currently performed by their bigger sisters from May 15, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their territorial jurisdiction;

(c) whether the railways intend to create another three units from July 15, 1997;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith their territorial jurisdiction;

(e) whether the Government are going ahead with the creation of new zones and divisions;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith their territorial jurisdiction;

(g) the estimated funds required for creating the infrastructure for a new zonal and divisional railways; and

(h) the time by which these railway zones and divisions are likely to start functioning and the extent to which these are helpful?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) For phased setting up of the new Zones with least disruption in working some specific activities of existing Khurda Road Division of South-Eastern Railway, Sonepur & Samastipur Divisions of North-Eastern Railway and Bangalore & Mysore Divisions of Southern Railway, which would form part of the new Zone, have been taken over by East-Coast Zone/Bhubaneswar, East-Central Zone/Hajipur and South-Western Zone/Bangalore respectively from 15.5.97.

(c) and (d) Such specific activities of existing Allahabad Division of Northern Railway, Jaipur Division of Western Railway and Jabalpur Division of Central Railway have been taken over by North-Central Zone/Allahabad, North-Western Zone/Jaipur and West-Central Zone/Jabalpur respectively from 15.7.97.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The detailed territorial jurisdiction of the Zones and Divisions has not been finalised.

(g) The cost of setting up of new six zones had been estimated at Rs. 250 cr. and for the eight new Divisions as Rs. 104 cr. (excluding cost of land).

(h) The reorganisation is expected to be completed in approx sixty months.

The formation of the new Zones is expected to provide relief to the heavily worked zones, improve accessibility and enable the administration to have an effective control over the compact zones leading to better service and customer satisfaction.

Foreign Contracts for Non-conventional Energy Sources

*228. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed any contracts with foreign countries for production, distribution technical know-how in the field of non-conventional energy sources during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, contract-wise; and

(c) the extent to which the domestic production of power by tapping non-conventional energy sources has been increased during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) The details of the agreements and Memoranda of understanding signed by the Government with foreign countries and multilateral organisations, for the development of non-conventional energy sources in the country during the last three years are given in the attached statement.

(c) A total of 913 MW of power generation capacity has been added by tapping non-conventional energy sources during the last three years (1994-95, 95-96 and 96-97) compared to 269 MW installed till 31.3.1994.

Statement

List of agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) signed during last three years

Title of Agreements/MOU		Date of Signature
1	2	3
A. Bilateral		
1. Philippines		
Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES), Republic of India and the Department of Energy, Republic of Philippines, for Enhanced Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy.		26.2.1996
2. Russian Federation		
Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES), Republic of India and the Ministry of Fuel & Energy of Russian Federation for Enhanced Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy.		4.3.1996

1	2	3
3. USA		
(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, US Department of Energy, USA, and the Solar Energy Centre, MNES, India, for close cooperation in the field of testing of Solar Thermal and Photovoltaics products, exchange of non-proprietary scientific information, solar radiation data collection, analysis and dissemination, establishment of links between renewable energy information networks in both India and USA etc.	20.12.1994	
(ii) Agreement between US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) for providing a total assistance of US\$ 19 million with a component of US\$ 12 million for power generation using alternate biomass during off-season, in sugar industry, under Green House Gases Pollution Prevention Project.	10.4.95	
4. Denmark		
(i) Agreement with Danish Export Finance Corporation (DEFC) to provide tied aid credit of US\$ 15 million as co-financing for wind energy component of "India: renewable Resources Development Project".	7.9.1995	
(ii) Exchange of letters between Government of India and Government of Denmark for a technical assistance of DKK 9,77,300/- to IREDA under Danish assistance for Wind Energy Sector.	6.12.1996	
(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and Government of Denmark for technical & financial support for establishment of a Wind Turbine Test Station in Tamil Nadu.	3.6.1997	
B. Multilateral		
1. UNESCO		
An International System for Energy Expertise and Knowledge (ISEEK) implementation agreement between UNESCO and Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for information exchange.	14.2.1996	

1	2	3
2. Asian Development Bank (ADB)		
Agreement between ADB and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency for providing credit of US\$ million for implementation of Renewable Energy Development Project By IREDA.	24.4.1997	

Shortage of Cables

*229. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to acute shortage of cables and other equipments the expansion work of Telephone Exchanges has been stagnated in Kerala and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) No Sir. There is no stagnation of expansion work of Telephone Exchanges. During 1996-97, 172775 new telephone connections were provided in Kerala and 163053 were provided in Gujarat. It is proposed to provide 2.62 lakh new telephone connections in Kerala and 2.08 lakh in Gujarat during 1997-98. Every effort will be made to achieve the targets for the year 1997-98.

Tatkal Phone Service

*230. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the performance progress of "Tatkal" phone scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the new phone connections provided in rural/urban areas under the scheme;

(c) the details of waiting lists for telephone in major towns of Maharashtra as on June 1997;

(d) the action taken/proposed to provide new-connections during the current year;

(e) whether the costly telephone equipments are lying idle/not functioning in various districts of Maharashtra; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to make them functional?